

The Plainville Cemetery Association, Inc.

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RE: Proposed Bill No. 5138, US flags on Veterans graves

To: Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs, General Assembly, State of Connecticut

I am the immediate past president of the Connecticut Cemetery Association and currently serve on its Board of Directors and the Legislative Committee.

I have been a Trustee since 1956 and President since 1990 of The Plainville Cemetery Association. We have had custody of and management responsibility for the two Town owned Public Cemeteries since 1893.

During the Korean conflict I served in the US Navel Reserve, some two years plus and subsequently 2 years on active duty in the US Marine Corps and received an honorable discharge in 1954.

Today, I come before you representing these organizations, as a veteran and an ordinary citizen.

Following the effects of the winter weather each Spring we cemeterians concentrate our efforts to clean up and make the grounds especially presentable for this major event, Memorial Day in honor of all those who have served our Country.


In Plainville the long standing practice of placing US flags to mark veteran's grave sites has been accomplished by the veteran's organizations such as the American Legion and VFW. Generally during the week end immediately prior to the Memorial Day observation. I believe most cemeteries follow this procedure. However, some have a special area set aside to honor veterans including flying the US flag and consequently do not permit flags on individual grave sites.

I understand from our Superintendent that, to extend this task from a week end activity to the entire week immediately prior to Memorial Day would add considerably to the work load and seriously impede our efforts to make the grounds as neat and presentable as possible for this very special day. The bill creates "an unintended adverse consequence", does not appear to correct a wrong and for these reasons we oppose its passage.

Additionally, it has been our longstanding practice that once the flags have been placed in honor of our veterans we allow them to remain in place until after July 4th as long as they do not become unattractive from effects of the elements. It is not possible for us to determine who may have placed a specific flag and following the 4th of July all are removed for appropriate disposition. Flags that have retained acceptable appearance have in some cases been donated to scout troops.

We hope you will not give this bill a favorable vote but permit it, so to speak, to R. I. P.

Thank you for hearing our opinions on this matter.


K. A. Hedman